

Environment Rating Scales Assessor Toolkit

Materials Needed to Conduct an Assessment

- Environment Rating Scale¹ with up-to-date Additional Notes downloaded from <http://www.ersi.info/>
- Supplementary materials downloaded from <http://www.ersi.info/>, including:
 - Playground Information to Use with the Environment Rating Scales
 - USDA Meal Guidelines
 - Diapering/Handwashing and Table Washing Procedures
 - Blank extended scoresheet for scale being used
- Pencil with eraser
- Clipboard – We recommend a clipboard with storage to hold materials



- Three measuring instruments – Refer to the document “Playground Information to Use with the Environment Rating Scales” for information on using the following tools:
 - Small tape measure for measuring playground equipment to check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment.

¹ Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ECERS-R), Infant/toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS-R), and Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R)

- Probe for measuring the depth of cushioning under any fall zones. Probe should be at least nine inches long. Try using a large gauge knitting needle (#15 or 10 mm) and mark the barrel in one-inch increments with indelible marker.
- Entrapment hazard measure for measuring areas where children could be caught and strangled. According to the National Playground Safety Institute, one of the most serious problems occurs when openings on playground equipment are greater than three and a half inches and less than nine inches. This size of opening can allow a child's head to be entrapped and lead to strangulation and death. You can make your own entrapment measure by cutting two circles out of a manila folder. One circle should be three-and-a-half inches in diameter (see template b) and the other should be nine inches in diameter.

